

**THE LOUISIANA GROUND WATER RESOURCES  
COMMISSION**

**7<sup>th</sup> MEETING  
SUMMARY**

**Monday, July 31, 2006**

**Prepared by:**

**The Department of Natural Resources**

**Office of Conservation**

**Ground Water Resources Division Staff**

**Commission members in attendance:**

Scott Kirkpatrick - Office of the Governor

James H. Welsh - Commissioner of Conservation

Karen Gautreaux - Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

Zahir “Bo” Bolourchi - Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development/ Water Resources

John Roussel - Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Karen Irion - Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals

Gene Coleman – Representing the Sparta Groundwater Conservation District Board of Commissioners

Linda Walker - The Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, and the League of Women Voters

**Ground Water Management Advisory Task Force members in attendance:**

Charlie Demas – The Louisiana District Chief, United States Geological Survey, Water Resources Division

Doug Carlson – The Director of the Louisiana Geological Survey, designee

Henry Graham – The President of the Louisiana Chemical Association, designee

Jess Barr – The President of the Cotton Producers Association, designee

Don Dial – Representative of the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District

Gene Coleman – Representative of the Sparta Groundwater Conservation District

C. A. “Buck” Vandersteen – The Executive Director of the Louisiana Forestry Association

John W. Moore – The Louisiana Engineering Society

Timothy W. Duex – University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Geology Department

Paul D. Miller, P.E. – The Association of Public Utilities

Eugene H. Owen – The Municipal Water Association

### **Call to Order**

Mr. Scott Kirkpatrick, Chairman, called the meeting to order. He stated to the Commission members that the Governor's staff is aware the terms for some members has expired and that the issue will be taken care of before the next Commission meeting. He asked that the Commission members introduce themselves and the entity (entities) they represent.

### **Ground Water Resources Division Staff Activities**

Before reporting on staff activities, Mr. Anthony Duplechin, Director of the Ground Water Resources Division of the Office of Conservation, asked the Commission and all present to observe a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Michael Bourgeois, who passed away on February 1 of this year. Mr. Bourgeois was the Executive Director of the Louisiana Landowners Association and represented that organization on Louisiana Ground Water Resources Commission. Mr. Bourgeois had previously been Deputy Secretary of DNR during the mid-1980's.

After the GWRC June meeting of last year, the Division hosted an informational booth at the Louisiana Rural Water Association's Annual Conference in Alexandria. Mr. Duplechin made presentations at two classroom sessions. Mr. Tim Seiler of the staff was appointed to the Advisory Committee on the Regulation & Control of Water Well Drillers, and continues to attend meetings of that body.

On August 15, 2005, Order AGC-1-05 went into effect declaring three "Areas of Groundwater Concern" in north Louisiana. Later in the month, Mr. Duplechin made a presentation to a class on water rights in Louisiana, and then attended a meeting of the Toledo Bend Joint Operating Committee at the reservoir dam site. Following Katrina, various DNR personnel were assigned to work with other state agencies as part of the Hurricane relief efforts. Charlotte Hardison, the Division's Administrative Coordinator, worked with the Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness.

The Commission was scheduled to meet on September 26 of last year; however, the meeting was cancelled due to Hurricane Rita.

Mr. Duplechin attended a meeting of the Sabine River Compact Administration in early October. On October 15, Governor Blanco issued **EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. KBB 2005 – 63**, creating the **LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY**. Within the many Task Forces and Recovery Teams of LRA is the Water Treatment and Water Supply Action Team to which Mr. Duplechin was assigned and named team leader. He continues to work on this team and attends monthly meetings. The team has since been renamed and re-focused on Aquifer Protection. It has been determined that some 3,600 water wells were affected by either Hurricane Katrina or Rita. More details are given under the Panel Discussion below.

In November, a Louisiana Water Resources Town Meeting was held in downtown New Orleans. Several members of the Commission and Task Force were in attendance.

In May, the Office of Conservation presented a certificate of commendation to former commissioner Richard Durrett on the occasion of his retirement from the Lincoln Parish government, citing his hard work and dedication to groundwater conservation.

Two weeks ago, the staff hosted an information booth at Louisiana Rural Water Association's Annual Conference. During the annual Awards Banquet, Mr. Duplechin accepted an appreciation award to the Department of Natural Resources on behalf of Secretary Scott A. Angelle.

### **Old Business:**

A. **Order AGC-1-05 (Order concerning designation of areas of groundwater concern in compliance with LSA R.S. 38:3097.6)**

After a brief history of the order was given, Mr. Timothy Seiler spoke on the reporting requirements and the details of water wells in the Sparta Aquifer areas of concern. The total number of water wells in the areas of concern is 172.

### **Educational Initiatives**

Honorable Hollis H. Downs, State Representative District 12, presented a detailed report on the educational initiatives taking place in the parishes involved in Order AGC-1-05 regarding the Sparta Aquifer. He emphasized a four pronged approach for persevering in conservation education endeavors and presented samples of information for distribution in the parishes declared areas of ground water concern in the order to enhance public awareness. He also emphasized pursuing those individuals/companies who are not reporting ground water usage.

Representative Downs read a draft letter he intends to mail to water systems in the Sparta and State Representatives and Senators in the Sparta area. In his letter, he emphasized conserving daily water usage, the LSU Cooperative Extension and the Ag Center have taken on the responsibility for public education, retreating water through a pilot program in West Monroe between the city and Graphics Packaging, and the exploring of alternative water sources such as an engineering study of a pipeline from Ruston to Lake D'Arbonne.

Representative Downs commended Mr. Rick Holt, Publisher of the Ruston Daily Leader, in his coverage of the Sparta Aquifer issues.

### **West Monroe Water Reuse Project**

Ms. Terry Emory, City of West Monroe, and Mr. John B. Stamberg, P.E., Energy Ventures Analysis, Incorporated, each reported on the status of the West Monroe's

project to produce drinking water quality for Graphic Packaging from wastewater effluent to reduce use of the Sparta Aquifer.

### **Update on proposed language for Regional Water Advisory Groups**

A draft Notice of Intent, Louisiana Administrative Code 43:VI. Chapter 9, proposed rules and regulations for Regional Water Resources Advisory Group was given to the Commissioners for review. Comments should be directed to Mr. Anthony J. Duplechin, Jr.

## **New Business**

### **A. Legislative Update**

The intent of Act 29 and Act 30 of the 2006 Regular Session of the Legislature was explained by Mr. Duplechin. Act 29 provides for a critical area of groundwater concern. Act 30 amends the number of mandatory meetings of the Ground Water Resources Commission from four per year to two per year.

### **B. Panel Discussion**

Power Point presentations regarding the effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita were given by representatives of the following state and federal agencies: The Department of Transportation and Development/Water Resources Division – Mr. Anthony Duplechin for Mr. Brad Hanson, the Department of Health and Hospitals/Office of Public Health – Drinking Water Safety by Ms. Karen Irion, the Department of Environmental Quality by Mr. Howard Fielding, and the United States Geological Survey by Mr. John Lovelace.

## **Comments**

Comments and questions were heard from the Ground Water Resources Commission members, the Ground Water Management Advisory Task Force members, and the general public.

## **Schedule for the Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Ground Water Resources Commission is tentatively set for Monday, October 16, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. in the LaBelle Room, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.